

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 21, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Turning first to the objection to drawing FIG. 4, a copy of a proposed corrected FIG. 4 is attached hereto, with the lead line for element 116 redrawn as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected as being indefinite, with the Examiner referring to specific language in the claims as being allegedly unclear. In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, the claims have been amended to address the points raised in the Office Action. The claims recite that the first chamber is defined by the housing. The claims also recite that the second chamber is defined by a body which is detachable from the housing. The reference to "at least partially unitary" has been removed from claims where it appeared, or those claims have been cancelled. With respect to the preamble reciting a duplex strainer, it is respectfully submitted that the recitations of a first chamber for strainer and a second chamber for straining are sufficient to support this part of the preamble. The chambers may accomplish this function by using any of a variety of media, or in some instances possibly without a separate straining media at all. Thus, the objection to the preamble reciting a strainer when two strainer chambers are recited is not understood by applicants and further clarification is requested.

Claim 1, 6, and 7 were rejected as being unpatentable over Oliver et al. in view of Elliott and Rea et al. Claim 4 was rejected as being unpatentable over Oliver et al. in view of Rea et al. Claim 5 was rejected as being unpatentable over Oliver et al. in view of Rea et al. and Elliot. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over the references whether taken singularly or in combination.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the very detailed presentation in the Office Action of the elements which the Examiner contends corresponds to various claim elements.

Without conceding the propriety of the art rejections above, each of the claims has been amended. Each of the claims now recites that the housing is a unitary housing and that the first strainer chamber is defined by this housing. Also, the claims recite that the second strainer chamber is defined by a body that is detachable from the housing. The claims also recite that both the first and second ball valves are supported by the housing, and that the first and second ball valves are mounted so that the strainer chamber is detachable, and when the second strainer chamber is detached, the first and second ball valves remain in the housing.

The above features are believed to define over the references. Applicants understand that the Examiner's contention is that the left hand section of Elliot corresponds to a first strainer chamber, and that the detachable right hand section of Elliot corresponds to the claimed second chamber. Applicants respectfully disagrees with this view, in that if the right hand section is taken to be the detachable strainer housing, then the valves are clearly not mounted by the main housing 2. That is, in the structure of Elliot, it would be the valves and the detachable strainer that are detached from the main housing which has the inlet and outlet. For at least these reasons, Applicant believes that the above mentioned claimed features are not provided by Elliot. Further, the Office Action is understood to agree that the other references of record do not teach or suggest the claimed detachable second strainer feature.

In addition to the foregoing, each of the claims has been amended to recite that the ball valves are moveable to a position which directs flow through the first strainer chamber and does not direct any flow through the second, removable, strainer chamber. This feature provides an advantage of some embodiments of the invention, which is described, for example, at Col. 5, lines 20-40 of the originally issued patent for this reissue, wherein the first strainer chamber can

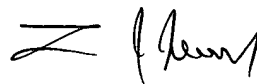
continue to operate while the second strainer chamber can be removed for cleaning or other servicing. These features are also not taught or suggested by the references used in the rejection. In particular, in the structure shown in Elliot, if the right side housing, which includes the valves, is removed, flow clearly would not occur in an operable fashion, that is, if the structure in Elliot asserted by the Examiner to be a detachable strainer were detached, then the entire housing would be open to the atmosphere and fluid would simply leak out. The other references of record are not believed to overcome this deficiency in Elliot.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the application; the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 202-861-1696.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. **87344.1524**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 21, 2006

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